

## Project Application Checklist

(Note: NOAA may modify this checklist as needed, consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act, to effectively implement the project application and selection process.)

**The project applicant must complete and sign this Project Checklist and submit it to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, along with the other required application materials.**

### Applicant and Project Information

**1. State:** California

**2. Project Title:** Santa Clara River Estuary Project

**3. Project Location (Approximate):** (City, County, Major Intersections)

The Santa Clara River estuary between the cities of Ventura and Oxnard, Ventura County, California. The portfolio of target properties spans the section of river from the Pacific Ocean to approximately 2 miles east of the Highway 101 bridge.

**4. Project Applicant:** The Nature Conservancy and State Coastal Conservancy

<b>5. Total Cost:</b> \$ <u>2 million+</u>	<b>CELCP Federal share (requested amount):</b> \$1 million_
	<b>State/Local Match Contributions:</b> \$500,000+
	<b>Other Federal:</b> \$
	<b>Other Non-Federal:</b> <u>\$500,000</u>

I ATTEST THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE AND OTHER INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS CHECKLIST ARE, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, TRUE AND ACCURATE.

---

Signature of Applicant

Date

Name of Signatory (please print or type): Samuel Schuchat

Title: Executive Officer

Address: 1330 Broadway, Suite 1100, Oakland, CA 94612

Phone Number: 510-286-0523

Email: [sschuchat@scc.ca.gov](mailto:sschuchat@scc.ca.gov)

**6. Project Eligibility:** *(Check all that apply. CELCP projects should meet all of these criteria, please explain any blanks below. If you need additional room to explain responses, attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist.)*

The proposed project:

- ☒ Is located in a coastal or estuarine area;
- ☒ Provides 1:1 match in the form of non-federal funds or other in-kind contribution;
- ☒ Will be held in public ownership and provide for conservation in perpetuity;
- ☒ Will provide for access to the general public, or other public benefit, as appropriate and consistent with resource protection;
- ☒ Protects important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, ecological, historical, aesthetic, or recreation values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses;
- ☒ Can be effectively managed and protected;
- ☒ Directly advances the goals, objectives, or implementation of an approved state CELCP plan or coastal management plan or program or NERR management plan approved under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), national objectives of the CZMA, or a local, regional or state watershed protection plan involving coastal states with approved CZM plans; and
- ☒ Is consistent with the state's approved CZM program.

**7. Public Benefit:**

- a. The acquisition will be publicly held or under a publicly-controlled easement and is for public benefit. The project does not improve private property for private or commercial gain.  
☒ Yes ☐ No

- b. The property will be accessible to the general public. ☒\* Yes ☐ No

\* To the extent feasible when balanced against protection of conservation values, properties acquired in or adjacent to McGrath State Beach would allow for public access.

Properties not in or adjacent to McGrath State Beach would not allow for public access.

- c. If the answer to 7.b. is No, check any of the following reasons that apply and explain why access to the property will be limited.

<input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geographically Isolated/Inaccessible
<input type="checkbox"/> School Outings	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easement
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please explain)		

The non-McGrath State Beach properties are located within the Santa Clara riverbed making access impractical.

- d. The property will be leased or rented. \_\_\_\_ Yes ☒ No (If yes, please explain.) *(If you need additional room attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist)*
- e. The public will be charged a user fee for access to or activities on the proposed property.  
☒ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If Yes, provide a description of the user fee that includes: how much, differential fees (if any), the need for the fees, and proposed use of the revenue. *(If you need additional room attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist)*

Access would not lead to a new stream of revenues. The existing user fee at McGrath State Beach would apply to any properties acquired within or adjacent to McGrath State Beach. The fees are assessed, collected and retained by State Parks.

## **8. Title Opinion and Appraisal:**

- a. Documentation that the current owner is a willing participant in a process of negotiation for possible sale of property, or interests in property, for conservation purposes is attached. (This documentation may be in the form of a letter of willingness or intent, option letter, contract, or similar form.) ☒ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

We have an existing contract on one of the portfolio targets, and we have already acquired another. We have met with six of the remaining property owners.

- b. The applicant has obtained and attached an independent appraisal performed by a state-certified appraiser. \_\_\_\_ Yes ☒ No
- c. A title opinion or title insurance report is attached. \_\_\_\_ Yes ☒ No

## **9. Location and Site Maps:**

Site and location maps are included in the application ☒ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

A regional map showing the general location of the project and a map of the project site, which shows the location and extent of the proposed acquisition, as well as relationship to significant natural features (slope, wetlands, dunes, floodplains, access, etc.) and adjacent land uses should be included.

## **Compliance with Other Federal Authorities**

### **10. State Historic Preservation Officer's (SHPO's) Clearance and National Historic Preservation Act:**

- a. The project will affect properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/>), eligible to be listed, or otherwise protected by section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act ([www.achp.gov/nhnp.html](http://www.achp.gov/nhnp.html)) or a similar State Preservation Act. \_\_\_\_ Yes ☒ No
- b. The Recipient has on file the SHPO's clearance. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No  
(If No, the Recipient certifies, by signing this checklist, that the SHPO clearance is being sought and that land will not be purchased until SHPO clearance is received by the Recipient.)

### 11. National Flood Insurance Program:

a. Is the project located in a designated special flood hazard area, floodway or "V" zone on a National Flood Insurance Program Floodway Map (<http://www.fema.gov/maps>)? ☒ Yes ☐ No (If No, go to 12)

b. Is the community in which the project is located, participating in the Flood Insurance Program ([www.fema.gov/nfip](http://www.fema.gov/nfip))? ☒ Yes ☐ No

### 12. Coastal Barriers Resource Act:

The project is located on a designated coastal barrier unit under the Coastal Barriers Resources Act ([www.fws.gov/cep/cbrunits.html](http://www.fws.gov/cep/cbrunits.html)). ☐ Yes ☒ No

If the answer is Yes, provide a brief statement below or attach to this checklist a brief analysis as to how the proposed project is consistent with the three CBRA purposes: to minimize (1) the loss of human life, (2) wasteful federal expenditures, and (3) damage to fish, wildlife and other natural resources. *(If you need additional room attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist)*

### 13. Endangered Species Act:

Might the proposed project adversely affect threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as defined by the Endangered Species Act? ([www.fws.gov/endangered](http://www.fws.gov/endangered)) or ([www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species)). ☐ Yes ☒ No

If the answer is No, provide a brief statement below explaining the basis for the conclusion. If the answer is Yes, provide a description of the adverse effects (minor and significant effects), the species or habitat affected, and any coordination between the state and the USFWS or NMFS. OCRM will not approve a project that USFWS or NMFS has determined will have a significant adverse effect on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat. *(If you need additional room attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist)*

The project will acquire and protect critical habitat for Southern Steelhead trout and up to 34 other threatened or endangered species. Public access, where provided, will be consistent with California State Parks policies. Where public access is not provided, no uses will occur.

### 14. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act:

Could the proposed project have significant adverse impacts on essential fish habitat for federally managed fish? ☐ Yes ☒ No

### 15. National Environmental Policy Act:

a. The proposed project may significantly affect the human environment. ☐ Yes ☒ No

b. The proposed project involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. ☐ Yes ☒ No

c. This action would have significant adverse effects on public health and safety. ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. This action will have highly controversial environmental effects. ☐ Yes ☒ No

e. This action will have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental impacts. ☐ Yes ☒ No

f. The project will have significant adverse impacts on other natural resources not covered elsewhere in this checklist, e.g., beaches and dunes, wetlands, estuarine areas, wildlife habitat, wild or scenic rivers, reefs, or other coastal resources. ☐ Yes ☒ No

g. The project will have insignificant effects when performed separately, but will have significant adverse cumulative effects. ☐ Yes ☒ No

If the answer to any one subpart is Yes, then an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may be required. For items answered Yes, provide a description of the resource(s) affected and the nature and scope of the effects. *(If you need additional room attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist)*

#### 16. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policies Act of 1970:

If the proposed project involves the acquisition and/or modernization of real property, will the proposed project cause the displacement of:

- a. persons, ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b. businesses, or ☐ Yes ☒ No
- c. farm operations? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If the answer to any of the above is yes, provide an explanation of the number of displaced persons, including businesses and farm operations; what fair and reasonable relocation payments and advisory services will be provided to any displaced persons; and what provisions will be made to ensure that safe, decent, and sanitary replacement dwellings will be available to such persons within a reasonable period of time prior to displacement. *(If you need additional room attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist)*

#### 17. Handicapped accessibility:

Will the proposed project be handicapped accessible? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

If No or N/A, provide a brief explanation as to how the project meets ADA handicapped accessibility requirements. *(If you need additional room attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist)*

Public access would be limited to properties within or adjacent to McGrath State Beach, which has some handicap accessible facilities. This projects does not include funding to construct any new public access trails.

#### 18. Environmental Justice:

Will the project have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations? ☐ Yes ☒ No

#### 19. State, Local and Tribal Laws:

The project is consistent with state, local, and tribal laws to protect the environment.  
☒ Yes ☐ No

## **20. Environmental Hazards**

Does the proposed property require evaluation and disclosure of known environmental hazards from prior use or operations? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☒ No

If yes, discuss below what type of contamination is on the site, or suspected to be on the project site and the status of clean-up activities. *(If you need additional room attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist)*

## **21. Public Coordination:**

Has the proposed project been subject to public review and coordination through a public notice or other public review process? ☒ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If "yes," please describe below, or attach a description to the checklist, of the results of that process and note when the coordination occurred. If "no," please explain. *(If you need additional room attach a supplemental sheet to the checklist)*

The Santa Clara River Parkway Program was approved by the State Coastal Conservancy at its public meeting on October 26, 2000.

---

OMB Control #0648-0459, expires 4/30/2006. NOAA is requesting this information in order to adequately assess the eligibility of proposed projects. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Elaine Vaudreuil, OCRM, 1305 East-West Hwy (N/ORM), Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. This reporting is authorized under P.L. 107-77. Information submitted will be treated as public record. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

# **SANTA CLARA RIVER ESTUARY CONSERVATION PROJECT**

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK**

The Santa Clara River Estuary Project will protect disappearing riparian and wetland habitats through acquisitions of fee title and/or conservation easement in and around the river's estuary. This project complements a five-year ongoing effort by the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and The Nature Conservancy (the Conservancy) to create the Santa Clara River Parkway by acquiring and protecting properties along the river. To date, the Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy have acquired 14 riverside properties totaling more than 2,300 acres. The project will also expand McGrath Beach State Park and the Santa Clara River Estuary Natural Preserve.

The \$1 million requested from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) will be matched by the McGrath State Beach Trustee Council (Trustee Council), the SCC, and the Conservancy. The Trustee Council will contribute up to \$500,000 from a \$1,315,000 state trust account resulting from mitigation of the 1993 Berry Petroleum Company oil spill in the vicinity of McGrath Lake. The trustees are the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). SCC will contribute at least \$500,000 toward land protection in the project area. Needs in excess of the projected \$2 million will be met by SCC and The Nature Conservancy.

This project is part of a larger ecological conservation project that includes the entire Santa Clara River, its estuary, and beach and marsh habitat along the Ventura County coastline. A number of local, state, and federal agencies as well as non-profit organizations and local citizens' groups are cooperating to make this work successful.

## **PROJECT SIZE AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE COAST AND/OR ESTUARY**

The project area is comprised of ten properties totaling more than 800 acres. The properties have been identified as high priorities by SCC, State Parks, CDFG, USFWS, and the Conservancy because they contain important and threatened habitat and species. All are either adjacent to the Santa Clara River estuary and/or within the existing boundaries of McGrath State Beach. We estimate that acquiring all of these properties will cost in excess of \$9 million. We will raise funds beyond the scope of this grant from other sources as they become available. A listing of these properties, with acreages and estimated costs of fee acquisition, is in Table 2 near the end of this document.

## **LEGAL RIGHTS TO BE ACQUIRED**

All properties will be protected by purchase of fee title or possibly conservation easements and will be available for public access where appropriate.

## **CELCP GOALS**

### **Primary Purpose — Ecological**

The project area is made up of integrated salt and freshwater wetlands and habitats that support a wide variety of threatened and endangered species. In addition, more than 200 species of migratory birds visit the area as they travel the Pacific Flyway. The project's two major features are the Santa Clara River estuary and the coastal habitats at McGrath State Beach.

The Santa Clara River is the largest river system in southern California (approximately 100 miles long with a watershed encompassing 1,600 square miles) and the last major river in the region with relatively intact geomorphologic and hydrologic functions. The river contains some of the best mixed riparian forest remaining in the southern part of the state, and it provides habitat for an estimated 20 threatened or endangered species. Federally listed endangered species on the river include the unarmored three-spine stickleback, least Bell's vireo, southern steelhead trout, California brown pelican, and California least tern. The estuary serves as a rich food source for birds and provides critical habitat and nutrients for the anadromous southern steelhead trout.

Nine important habitats converge in and around McGrath State Beach, making the area high in biological diversity. These habitats include the Pacific Ocean, sandy beach, coastal dunes, the Santa Clara River and estuary, freshwater marsh, brackish marsh, riparian woodlands, and McGrath Lake — a back-dune coastal lake. In addition to four species of birds listed by the state as of "special status," the federally listed endangered California brown pelican, California least tern, and least Bell's vireo as well as the threatened western snowy plover are either known to occur or are likely to occur in the project area.

Less than 10 percent of historical wetlands remain in southern California, largely due to the impacts of development and conversion of land to other uses. The project area was once an integrated coastal estuarine system that extended nine miles south to Mugu Lagoon. Today, although only small portions of the estuary and coastal wetlands remain intact, the Santa Clara River and estuary are critically important in the region. The target properties identified by this Project contain some of the most valuable remaining habitat along the Santa Clara River's estuary and coast.

### **Conservation**

SCC has been working on establishing a Santa Clara River Parkway for nearly ten years. They plan to create a 25-mile-long park and wildlife preserve along the river that will eventually contain 6,400 acres. To date, roughly a third of the targeted properties have been acquired. SCC has also funded the acquisition of 542 acres of coastal land south of the Project that will be restored to salt marsh wetlands. The Nature Conservancy has been a partner in this conservation effort by prioritizing acquisitions, negotiating and completing the purchases, managing acquired properties, and locating additional financial resources to implement the plan.

Conservation is an important part of maintaining the ecological health of the Santa Clara River. The project area is highly threatened by conversion, development, invasive plant species, and



habitat fragmentation. Invasive species such as giant reed (or arundo) and salt cedar (or tamarisk) upset natural functions by depleting scarce water supplies, crowding out natural vegetation, and imposing barriers to water flows. Habitat fragmentation, which occurs when habitat becomes isolated from other natural areas, impairs regenerative abilities following a natural event such as a flood or fire and limits wildlife territory. Together, these two threats undermine the restoration potential of a landscape because eradication of invasive species on fragmented habitats is often ineffective.

Finally, the Santa Clara River is under constant threat from the building of flood control levees, bank stabilization work, and other activities that alter the natural hydrology and native vegetation that provide a safe passageway for southern steelhead on their way to spawn. These flood control structures remove native vegetation and can increase the likelihood of erosion above and below them.

By acquiring fee title and conservation easements, this project will prevent future conversion of valuable habitat to agricultural, industrial, or residential uses. Once protected, these sites will be targeted for the removal of invasive species and the restoration of native habitat. Furthermore, in several cases, the properties identified for acquisition adjoin already protected lands, forming “ownership barriers” that prevent further habitat fragmentation. Moreover, once these lands are under conservation ownership, they will not be subject to future activities that impair the hydrologic functions of the Santa Clara River or McGrath Lake.

### **Recreation**

The project will add 92 acres to McGrath State Beach Park. The added areas will expand hiking, bird watching, and nature education activities at the park. In its book *Important Bird Areas of California*, The Audubon Society identifies the Santa Clara River as one of the state’s best birding areas. McGrath State Beach Park may also serve as an overnight stopover or access point to the planned California Coastal Trail as presented in the State CELCP.

### **History**

While there are no historical structures on the project lands, the Santa Clara River has become a historical landmark by virtue of being the last large, relatively natural river in southern California. The estuary is also believed to have been frequented by the Chumash who had established the large village of Shisholop nearby.

### **Aesthetic**

McGrath State Beach lies between Harbor Boulevard and the Pacific Ocean. The properties we propose to add to the park will create an additional 0.9 miles of dune scenery along the boulevard. This represents nearly a doubling of the park frontage on the highway. Furthermore, acquisition of the river parcels will protect the view of the river along the opposite side of the highway for half a mile.

### **Relevance to CELCP and Other State/Local Plans**

- *Relationship to State CELCP*

The project is consistent with or supports several priorities listed in the California State CELCP, including Protecting California's Natural Heritage (WCB); Steelhead Restoration and Management Plan (DFG); California Outdoor Recreation Plan (State Parks); Completing the California Coastal Trail (Coastwalk); Strategic Plan of 2003 (SCC); Green Visions Plan (University of Southern California).

- *Relationship to State Coastal Management Plan*

Three of the properties targeted for acquisition are located in the Local California Coastal Zone, and all are within the state's coastal watershed boundary (see map on page 4 of state CELCP plan). Furthermore, the project is consistent with the plan.

- *Supports regional or statewide planning*

The project is located in the Santa Clara River watershed, which is the subject of an Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) that is currently being prepared by Ventura County. The IRWMP brings together local water managers to develop a plan to integrate water management strategies within the watershed. The draft of the IRWMP includes conservation of wetlands habitat in the Santa Clara River as an important goal. This project contributes to that goal by preserving some of the best riparian habitat on the river.

### **Manageability of the Project Site**

- *Describe the current use of the site and the surrounding area.*

Most of these properties are vacant open areas with significant wetlands. The McKee properties are partially developed with oil wells and a small go-cart track. The Coastal Berry, McGrath, and Coultas properties are partially developed with agricultural fields.

The surrounding uses include agriculture, McGrath Beach State Park, a golf course, wetlands, a power plant, and the Pacific Ocean.

- *Describe the habitat quality on the project site and the degree of non-native species found in the different habitats on the project site and discuss if any restoration is needed and planned.*

Habitat within the project varies from excellent to moderately degraded, with most able to become high quality with simple restoration. Simple restoration would involve removal of invasive and non-native plants. Restoration of the farm parcels would require planting with riparian plants and allowing the land to flood during periods of high flows. Restoration of a portion of the property that contains oil wells could be carried out with the oil wells in place. Once the wells are removed, the remainder of the property would be restored. Finally, restoration of the go-cart facility requires only removal of the paved track and a small structure and the replanting of the area with appropriate dune plants.

- *Discuss any remediation activities that have occurred or are needed on the project site.*

No significant remediation activities have occurred or are needed on the project site.

### **Long-term Use of the Site**

- *Discuss the uses that are proposed for the project site.*

Long-term uses of the site will be limited to natural wetlands, coastal habitat, and recreation trails. Recreational trail use would be associated with the adjacent state park and river parkway.

- *Discuss how the uses that are proposed for the project site are compatible with the primary purpose of the project and how the ecological, conservation, recreation, historic and aesthetic values present on the project site will be maintained or improved.*

Most of the project will eventually consist of restored or expanded wetlands and other natural habitats. This vision represents the essence of the project and is highly compatible with the primary purpose of ecological preservation in that it will provide an increased amount of higher-quality habitat for sensitive species. The project will largely complete the protection of the estuary portion of the River Parkway Corridor. The other limited uses for trails and bird watching provide significant recreational and aesthetic benefits.

Title to the project's acquired lands will be held by government agencies such as California State Parks and the California Coastal Conservancy. These agencies are charged with protecting California's natural heritage. Both agencies have been active in the area for many years and have significant nearby conservation holdings. State Parks has designated the estuary as the Santa Clara River Estuary Natural Preserve. Neither of these agencies permits uses such as off-road vehicles, hunting, or other activities that are incompatible with the ecological preservation of the properties to be acquired.

### **Threat of Conversion**

- *If applicable, discuss current development pressures in the project area.*

Most of the project area is located within urban boundaries of adjacent cities. One parcel already has a small commercial development (go-cart track) on a portion of it. As the surrounding cities grow, there will be great pressure to develop these properties, constrained by levees, or filled in. Furthermore, aggregate mining is a permitted use on the parcels along the Santa Clara River. By acquiring these properties, we will prevent their almost certain conversion to urban and commercial uses.

- *Discuss the current status of the project site. For example, discuss the site's development potential including zoning, if the project site is listed for sale, if the property owner is pursuing development of the project site, and/or if development plans have been submitted to the local government.*

We are not aware of any pending or proposed development on any of the parcels the project hopes to acquire. However, as stated above, most of the area is designated as future urban use in the county's and cities' general plans. Our goal is to protect these properties before their development is imminent. By acquiring them now, we can obtain them for lower costs, and the owners are more likely to be willing to sell than they would be if they were considering formal development plans.

## Project Readiness

- *Briefly discuss if the project site has been identified, if negotiations with the owner are underway or if a purchase agreement has been reached, and if an appraisal, title opinion, and other documentation have been completed.*

The Nature Conservancy will contribute staff time to lead acquisition negotiations and coordinate the partnership. The Conservancy has an ongoing relationship with the owners of the McGrath, Coastal Berry, and Coultas properties and will be initiating contact with the remaining owners during winter 2005–2006. Trustee Council funds should be available in summer 2006, and SCC funds are available immediately. Acquisitions will occur between now and 2007. We expect that this Project will result in the protection of approximately three of the identified properties by the end of 2007. Please see Table 1 for the status of each potential acquisition in the project area.

**Table 1. Status of Available Properties in the Santa Clara River Estuary Project**

Property	Ownership*	Total Acres	Status
Conway (2)	Parks	3	
Caron	SCC	86	
Coastal Berry	SCC	217	Cultivating relationship
Coultas	SCC	108	Cultivating relationship
Gold Coast	SCC	22	Cultivating relationship
McGrath	SCC	110	Cultivating relationship
McKee I	Parks	62	
McKee II	Parks	28	
Strathmore	TNC/SCC	42	Property acquired Oct 2005.
Westbrook	SCC	100	Drafting purchase agreement. Appraisal, title underway.
White	SCC	31	Beginning negotiations
<b>Total</b>		<b>809</b>	

\* Agency that will take ownership of the property when property is acquired.

## **Ability to Acquire Land**

- *Discuss your financial commitment to land acquisition past and/or future.*

The Coastal Conservancy has a current annual budget of over \$185 million, the majority of which is expended for acquisition. The Coastal Conservancy has expended \$28 million for acquisition of lands in Ventura County. The watersheds of Ventura County are one of the priority focus areas in our Strategic Plan. In undertaking the Santa Clara River Parkway project the Coastal Conservancy has committed to the acquisition of the entire twenty five mile river corridor from the mouth to Sespe Creek.

The Nature Conservancy has spent the last 54 years acquiring and managing some of the most important natural lands in the world. We hold nearly \$1.5 billion of land in fee title or conservation easements. We are committed to the successful acquisition of the lands in this project. To date, roughly \$8.8 million has been spent by SCC and others in acquiring more than ten miles of the Santa Clara River.

- *Discuss your previous success in acquiring lands, or interests in lands, for long-term conservation purposes.*

The California Coastal Conservancy has undertaken more than 950 projects along the 1,100 mile California coastline and San Francisco Bay and has preserved through acquisition more than 100,000 acres of wetlands, dunes, wildlife habitat, recreational lands, and open space. In Ventura County, we have acquired 265 acres and funded the acquisition of another 2,000 acres.

The Nature Conservancy is the largest private non-profit conservation organization in the world. To date, we have protected more than 1.2 million acres of land in California, including more than 2,600 acres in Ventura County. Over the last five years, we have protected through acquisition more than ten miles of the Santa Clara River in Ventura County. We currently manage all of the 2,600 acres we have acquired in the county.

- *Discuss who will provide the personnel and expertise to acquire the project and your legal authority for acquiring and managing conservation lands.*

The Nature Conservancy will provide the personnel and expertise necessary to acquire these lands. After acquisition, ownership will be held by a non-federal government agency such as California State Parks or the State Coastal Conservancy. Each agency has interest in specific properties within the project it wishes to own. All properties are of interest to one or both agencies (see Table 1).

## **Ability to Manage Land**

- *Discuss the funding and personnel that will be needed to manage this new property.*

Properties to be held by State Parks will be owned and managed by incorporating them into their existing park. Personnel and systems to manage their lands have been in place since 1961 and are not expected to need to increase significantly with these acquisitions. State Parks has four park units in the vicinity, staffed by 29 permanent staff and 88 part-time or

seasonal staff serving visitors and caring for facilities. McGrath State Beach also relies on a team of six volunteer camp hosts who provide direct services to visitors and work with us on maintenance activities in the park unit. Total annual budget for the sector is approximately \$1.2 million, and annual visitation at McGrath State Beach alone averages 209,000.

Properties acquired by SCC will be managed by The Nature Conservancy under an arrangement that has been in place for more than five years. The Conservancy currently manages more than 2,600 acres in the area, much of which was acquired with SCC grants. The Conservancy has 2.5 full-time positions devoted to its conservation work in the area.

- *Identify where the needed funding and personnel time will come from. If applicable, discuss any partnership/stewardship agreement with another organization.*

As noted above, State Parks can incorporate their portion of the project lands into their current management systems. The Nature Conservancy will manage lands held by SCC by expanding our existing management agreement with them. Since we are managing many other properties in the area, we will benefit from the personnel and management systems already in place that will allow us to keep our per-acre costs to a minimum.

- *Discuss your success in managing other properties for conservation purposes.*

The Nature Conservancy currently manages lands totaling hundreds of thousands of acres in California and tens of thousands of acres in southern California. Our mission is to protect lands and waters for the benefit of the native species that need them to survive. We have managed and continue to manage lands in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies in the U.S. and in 28 other countries around the world. Our management and restoration practitioners are among the best in the world.

### **Other Pertinent Information**

- *If applicable, discuss the history of the project site, project partners, relationship of the acquisition to other planned/existing acquisitions, etc.*

McGrath State Beach, established in 1961, is one of the best bird watching areas in California according to the Audubon Society and State Parks. The park offers the lush banks of the Santa Clara River and sand dunes along the shore. A nature trail leads to the Santa Clara Estuary Natural Preserve. Two miles of beach provide surfing and fishing opportunities. The park offers campsites by the beach.

Groups and agencies involved in conservation efforts on the Santa Clara River and Ventura County coast include the State Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, USFWS, USFS, Wildlife Conservation Board, California Department of Fish and Game, County of Ventura, U.S. Navy, Ormond Beach Task Force, University of California, NOAA, and many others.

It is also important to note that the non-profit organization American Rivers listed the Santa Clara River among the top ten most endangered rivers in the country this year.

This project has not received any other federal grants.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

The following benchmarks will be completed as indicated. Please refer to Table 1 for information on specific properties. Please note that this timeline represents current estimated time frames only for those properties with whose owners we are currently engaged in conversations about purchasing their lands. Furthermore, the cost of the targeted properties varies greatly, so the total number of acquired properties will depend on the value of those where negotiations are successful and the total funds available.

- *Identify site(s) for purchase.* Status: Completed.
- *Contact and evaluate potential willing sellers.* Status: Under way; completion expected June 2006.
- *Acquire draft appraisal of potential acquisitions.* Status: One appraisal in the works; others not yet started. All appraisals expected to be completed in fall 2006.
- *Negotiate basic deal terms with landowners.* Status: One under way; we expect to complete the rest in late 2006.
- *Final appraisal, title opinion, Environmental Site Assessment.* Status: Due diligence under way on one property; not started on the rest. Completion expected in mid-2007.
- *Complete negotiations with landowner(s).* Status: One negotiation under way; the others will be completed in mid-2007.
- *Submit documentation to NOAA for approval.* Status: Not started. Will begin in 2007 and complete by early 2008.
- *Close on property.* Status: One property acquired; will close on others by end of 2008.

**Table 2. Cost of Available Properties in the Santa Clara River Estuary Project**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Cost/acre</b>
Conway (2)	3	\$49,700	\$16,558
Caron	86	64,313	750
Coastal Berry	217	2,039,595	9,413
Coultas	108	1,206,781	11,145
Gold Coast	22	16,523	750
McGrath	110	1,508,366	13,770
McKee I	62	2,929,980	47,000
McKee II	28	1,327,750	47,000
Strathmore	42	8,000	190
Westbrook	100	75,000	750
White	31	23,295	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>\$9,249,303</b>	

## BUDGET INFORMATION — Non-Construction Programs

## SECTION A — BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		Total (g)
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	
1. <i>CEICP</i>		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$		\$ 2,000,000
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. TOTALS		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$	\$	\$ 2,000,000

## SECTION B — BUDGET CATEGORIES

Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY					Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
a. Personnel	\$ <i>CEICP</i>	\$	\$	\$		\$
b. Fringe Benefits						
c. Travel						
d. Equipment						
e. Supplies						
f. Contractual						
g. Construction						
h. Other <i>- LAND ACQUISITION</i>	\$ 2,000,000					\$ 2,000,000
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a - 6h)	\$ 2,000,000					\$ 2,000,000
j. Indirect Charges	—					—
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 2,000,000	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 2,000,000
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$



	(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS
8.	STATES COASTAL CONSERVANCY	\$ 500,000	\$	\$	\$ 500,000
9.	MCGRATH TRUSTEE COUNCIL		500,000		500,000
10.					
11.					
12.	TOTALS (sum of lines 8 and 11)	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$	\$ 1,000,000

SECTION D — FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
14. Non-Federal	1,000,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000

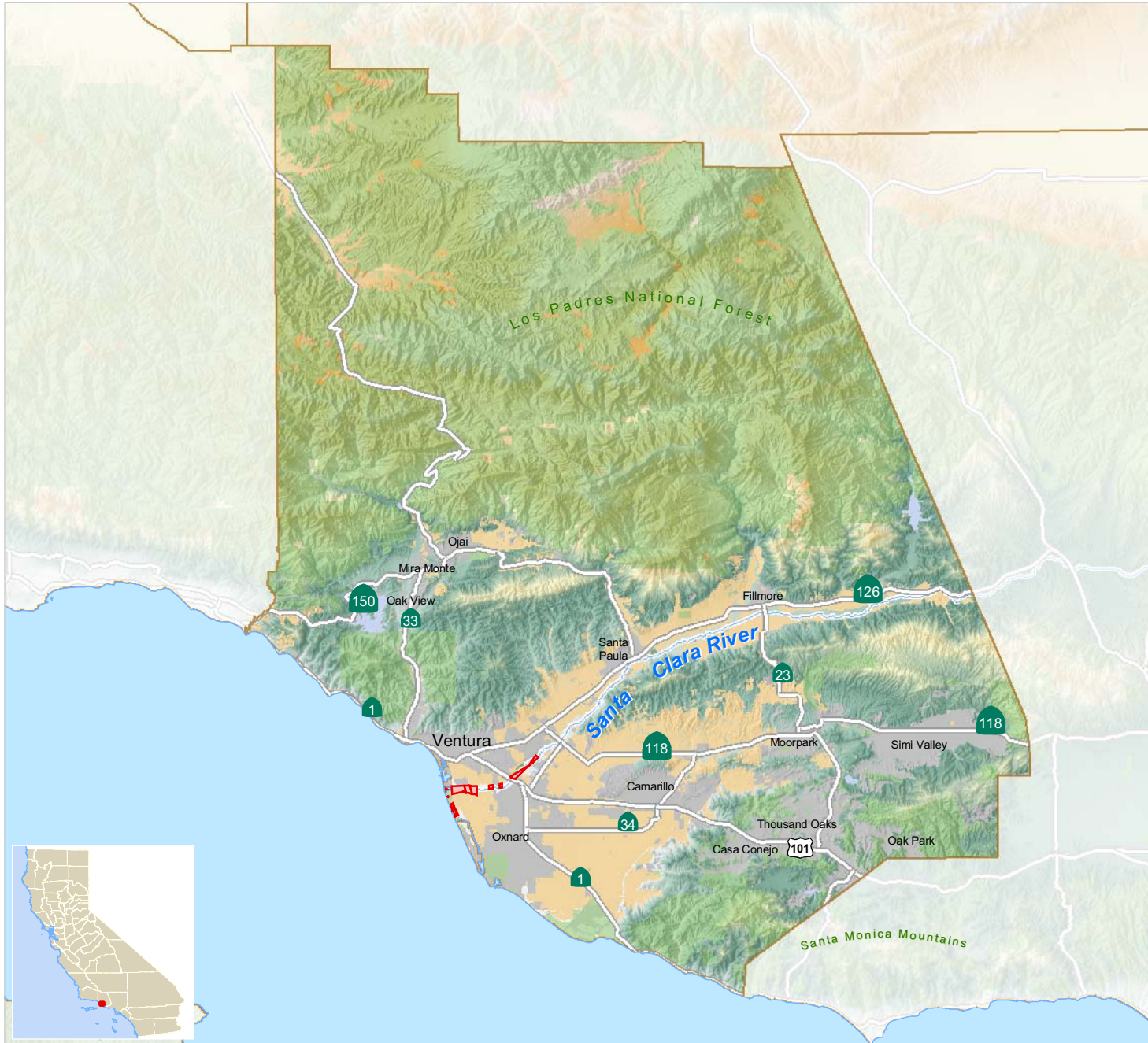
SECTION E — BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

	(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)			
		(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16.		\$	\$	\$	\$
17.					
18.					
19.					
20.	TOTALS (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION F — OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION  
(Attach additional Sheets if Necessary)

21. Direct Charges:	22. Indirect Charges:
---------------------	-----------------------

23. Remarks
-------------



#### Land Ownership

Public or Protected Lands

#### Parcels

CELCP Targets

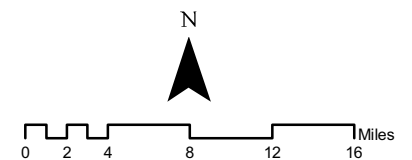
#### Hydrology

Santa Clara R.

#### Land Use

Urban

Agriculture



December 22, 2005.  
Brian Cohen, SCE GIS Specialist  
The Nature Conservancy



